

H. R. 796.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

FEBRUARY 27, 1849.

Read twice, and laid upon the table.

Mr. W. R. W. COBB, on leave, introduced the following bill :

A BILL

To reduce and graduate the price of the public lands to actual settlers and cultivators, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Repre-*
2 *sentatives of the United States of America in Congress*
3 *assembled, That all the public lands of the United States,*
4 *which have been offered for sale for three years or*
5 *more, shall, to actual settlers and cultivators, be subject*
6 *to entry at one dollar per acre until the first day of July,*
7 *one thousand eight hundred and fifty ; all then remaining*
8 *unsold shall be subject to entry at seventy-five cents per*
9 *acre until the first day of July, one thousand eight hun-*
10 *dred and fifty-two ; all then remaining unsold shall be sub-*
11 *ject to entry at fifty cents per acre until the first day of*
12 *July, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-four ; all then*

13 remaining unsold shall be subject to entry at twenty-five
 14 cents per acre until the first day of July, one thousand
 15 eight hundred and fifty-six ; and all then remaining unsold
 16 shall, thereafter, be subject to entry at twelve and a half
 17 cents per acre.

1 **SEC. 2.** *And be it further enacted,* That all public
 2 lands, which have been, or may hereafter be, offered for
 3 sale, shall, at the expiration of three years from the date
 4 of offering, be subject to the same system of graduation,
 5 entry, and cession, as is prescribed in the foregoing sec-
 6 tion : *Provided,* That no one person, under the provisions
 7 of this act, shall be authorized to purchase more than one
 8 half section at the two lowest rates ; that is to say : at
 9 twenty-five and twelve and a half cents per acre.

1 **SEC. 3.** *And be it further enacted,* That upon every
 2 reduction in price, under the provisions of this act, the
 3 occupants and settlers upon the lands shall have the right
 4 of pre-emption at such graduated or reduced prices ; which
 5 right shall extend to a period of one year, from and after
 6 the date when the respective reduction shall take place ;
 7 and any lands not entered by the respective occupants and
 8 settlers within that period, shall be liable to be entered or
 9 purchased by any other person until the next graduation
 10 or reduction shall take place ; and if not so purchased,
 11 shall again be subject to right of pre-emption for twelve

12 months as before, and so on, from time to time, as reductions take place: *Provided*, That nothing contained in this act shall be construed to interfere with any right which has accrued or may accrue by virtue of any act granting pre-emption to actual settlers upon public lands.

1 SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted*, That any person
2 applying to enter any of the aforesaid lands under the provisions of this act, shall be required to make affidavit before the register or receiver of the proper land office, 3
4 that he or she enters the same for his or her own use, and for the purpose of actual settlement and cultivation, or for
5 the use of an adjoining farm or plantation, owned or occupied by him or herself; and, together with said entry, he
6 or she has not acquired from the United States, under the provisions of this act, more than three hundred and twenty
7 acres according to the established surveys. And if any
8 person taking such affidavit shall swear falsely in the premises, he or she shall be subject to all the pains and
9 penalties of perjury.

1 SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted*, That where there
2 are no settlements made upon any public lands of the United States, which have been offered for sale for the
3 time specified in this act, then it may be lawful for any person or persons to enter quantities not to exceed one
4 quarter section under the provisions of this act.